

## IN THE ODD CORNER.

### QUEER AND CURIOUS THINGS AND EVENTS.

**A Yellow Rainstorm Startles the People of an Italian Town—Cloud Mantle Carried Across the Sea from Desert Sands of Africa.**

#### The Old Familiar Faces.

I have had playmates, I have had companions,

In my days of childhood, in my joyful school days;

All, all are gone, the old familiar faces,

I have been laughing, I have been carousing,

Drinking late, sitting late, with my bosom cronies;

All, all are gone, the old familiar faces,

I loved a Love once, fairest among women;

Closed are her doors on me, I must not see her—

All, all are gone, the old familiar faces,

I have a friend, a kinder friend has no man—

Like an ingrate I left my friend abruptly;

Left him to mope on the old familiar faces.

Ghost-like I paced around the haunts of my childhood,

Earth seemed a desert I was bound to traverse,

Seeking to find the old familiar faces.

Friend of my bosom, thou more than a brother,

Why wert not thou born in my father's dwelling?

So might we talk of the old familiar faces.

How some they have died, and some they have left me,

And some are taken from me; all are departed;

All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

—Charles Lamb.

#### Uncanny Yellow Rainstorm.

As in a sandstorm in the Arabian desert, an atmosphere of yellow ochre enveloped Naples recently. "What does it mean?" every one inquired. "Is it a 'kamsin' or a simoom; an aurora borealis or an upheaval of Vesuvius?" The day dawned under a leaden mantle, which suffocated streets and houses and covered every visible portion of the heavens. Slowly and implacably it descended, heavier and heavier, as if to crush the city beneath it. The air was difficult to breathe, and as the hours passed one felt a singular uneasiness and oppression. When later the mantle of lead assumed a hue of pea-soup green, heads became heavy, pulses slowed, and lips were parched.

In the Bay Capri and the hilly outlines of the shore, with distant Vesuvius, disappeared. It was even impossible to distinguish the nearer summit of San Martino and Capo del Monte. The sea itself assumed a livid hue, and dashed in curling waves against rocks and jetties with menacing anger. As the hot "sirocco" threw over land and sea its sickening cloud those who feared only a heavy shower, perhaps of hail, recalled the warnings, which foretold the doom of Pompeii and the fertile Campania. At midday the blood in one's veins seemed to turn to fire. The heat was unbearable in house and street, and the churches became more than usually crowded with timorous people anxious to consult with the saints, the priests and each other. San Gennaro was, of course, invoked, Santa Barbara supplicated, and other saints likewise tormented and apostrophized. Binoculars and telescopes were bracketed from every balcony and roof which faced Vesuvius, in expectation of an eruption of flames and rocks, accompanied by subterranean tremblings. However, the cloud mantle did not come from the "mouth of hell," as the crater is known here. It was carried silently across the sea from the desert sands of Africa, and early in the afternoon the dust began to descend incensed in water—like a shower of cayenne pepper, leaving rusty spots on holiday attire which not even ammonia can scrub out—and penetrating every nook and cranny of the houses. The atmosphere changed from chrome to orange, and again to a well known tint of a London fog. Although at first there was a dead calm, the waves were higher than is usual in stormy weather, and broke in great crests over the sea wall along the Via Carracciolo, spraying far out into the roadway, and damaging still more the dilapidated barrier, from which it tore huge slabs of stone. In the calm there was that peculiar vibration in the air as if "nature were holding her breath." Then, suddenly, from all quarters, a demon wind arose, shrieking like a fiend from the surrounding mountains. These bent and moaned as if in pain, and eddies of dust whirled blindly in mimic maelstroms. Again, silence! Nature recuperating for another outburst! Hours afterward—far out in the sunshine the fishermen were casting their nets, while Vesuvius, with her snowy plume of smoke, gazed in sullen apathy through the yellow sand streaks on the window panes, and a light powder of silica covering the trees and houses remained as a reminder that the storm was passed.—Chicago Journal.

#### Birds' Nests in Odd Places.

The peculiar nesting sites of the birds in the vicinity of Baltimore is a most interesting study. Several days ago, on the old Liberty road, the completed nest of a bluebird was found in a letter box, which was in constant use. When found a letter was lying beside the nest and one of the birds was in the box. In Pulney's valley a sparrow hawk appeared at a barn and drove from a box in which it had made

its home a wren. The hawk threw out the wren's nest and soon completed one of its own, and there reared its young. Upon level tops of city houses bullbats or nighthawks frequently lay their eggs. The cowbird deposits its eggs in the nests of other and weaker birds for them to incubate. Only one egg is usually deposited in the nest. The discovery of a summer tanager's nest a short time ago, in which four rowbird eggs reposed, besides one of the proprietor's was considered a most unusual case by ornithologists. In the telegraph poles about the suburbs of the city two members of the woodpecker family, the flicker and the redhead, frequently make their homes, burrowing in the wood. In the masts of abandoned vessels they also rear their young. English sparrows frequently build in freight trains and their nests and inhabitants are sometimes taken across the continent. Frank C. Kirkwood, secretary of the Game and Fish association, tells of a find he made in a large tree on Kent Island. In the top was the nest of a fisherow; further down was a fishhawk's, in the sticks of which were five purple grackles, with young ones, and four English sparrows' nests. Further down a flicker's nest and three more grackles, and the nest of one wren. William H. Fisher, a well known ornithologist of this city, has in his collection a double nest of a chipping sparrow. It was found near Baltimore, and contained one egg in one apartment and three in the other. In the glass globes of the arc electric lights of the city English sparrows and purple grackles sometimes build. Barn owls, despite the noise around the grain elevators, have been known to rear their young in the buildings. Mr. Kirkwood last year found very intimate relations existing between the families of a red-tail hawk and a gray squirrel. The hawk's nest was built upon the squirrel's, and both of them were inhabited. In the sails of boats which have been laid by for the summer tree swallows have been known to build their nests.

#### Big Catch of Water Snakes.

For the second time within a year the French Canadians who live in Old Town and Orono, Me., have visited Field's pond and caught water snakes from the top of the receding ice of winter. Last year they came with nets of fine mesh and set them in front of the holes which lead in among the ledges. Only a few were caught by this method, though the snake hunters passed more than a week near the pond. This year the Frenchmen adopted new tactics. They built bright fires on the center of the ice at night and smeared a circle of coal tar around the blaze, so when the snakes wriggled along to learn what the fire was they smeared themselves with the viscid tar, rolled in knots, got mixed up with others that were similarly afflicted, and ended the job by becoming glued together in a great gummy lump of tar and snakes. In this manner more than 600 snakes were caught in one night. The snakes were taken ashore and soaked in warm water until the tar came off, when they were skinned and the skins were stretched over long, tapering poles to dry. The man who has a use for these skins is Felix Thirault of Eagle Lake, a French doctor, who has gained money and reputation for his cures in cases of rheumatism. His treatment consists of giving his patients a strong dose of squaw bush tea, which produces nausea, which relax the muscles and produce perspiration. As soon as the sufferer is in a sweat he is put to bed, covered with warm blankets, and a snake skin is stretched about his waist. As long as the skin stays in place no rheumatism can affect him. The catch in the treatment is that as soon as the water dries out the skin it contracts, pressing the patient so hard that few can stand the pain. Those who have strength to bear up under the agony until the skin expands from the strain have no more trouble with rheumatism, while the ones who are compelled to cut the skin to relieve their agony have to take a new treatment. Thirault has become rich at the business, the people believing that some of his cures are nothing short of miracles.

#### Her Sporting Clothes.

Sporting clothes are growing dangerously and delightfully becoming and picturesque. The directorate coat is bound, they say, to force eventually the abdication of the English habit coat for riding; the new brown, red and white linen golf skirts have ruffled bottom this spring, and the cycling outfits that are now turned out by the tailors would appear to advantage at garden parties and in drawing rooms. Just now we are hailing joyously the new sporting skirts of silk, linen and silk flannel, their bosoms laid with stitched down tufts that have a piped edge and high turn over L'Aiglon collars faced with a bright plaid silk. The sleeves of such waists are a modified bishop in shape, with small, round stitched cuffs holding the fullness at the wrist. The very dressy cyclist and golfer is ordering her next suit of serge, mohair or linen, to be made with a many gored corselet skirt. Eight goreds will not be considered too many for such service, and the seams of every gore must be strapped, attached and piped with satin. Of course it will require the figure of a nymph and the grace of a Psyche to carry off one of these skirts effectively, and it is said but true that along with the corselet skirt has arrived the satin ribbon bretelles, or suspenders, that had a passing vogue seven years ago, but which were laughed out of use and never worn by the truly modish.

I have always taught, and do teach, and shall teach, I doubt not, till I die, that in resolving to do our work well is the only sound foundation of any religion whatsoever.—Ruskin.

## A ROYAL ESTATE

### A MEXICAN THE GREATEST OF INDIVIDUAL LAND OWNERS.

Possessions Larger Than the State of Massachusetts—Three-Quarters of a Million Head of Cattle—Two Hundred Thousand Sheep—Houses as Much Beef Each Year as Would Supply Boston—Is a Great Banker and Manufacturer.

When the estate of an American capitalist reaches \$50,000,000 everybody in the United States knows who he is and his name is familiar wherever newspapers are printed and read. In Mexico, however, it is different. There are men in Mexico whose fortunes run around the \$50,000,000 mark and are hardly known out of their own states. One of these is Don Luis Terrazas of Chihuahua, formerly governor of that state. He is the largest individual land and cattle owner in the world. It would surprise the people of Massachusetts to know that one man in the southern republic was the sole owner of more land than is in that commonwealth. They would hardly believe that one man in Mexico could supply the whole city of Boston with beef from his own ranch and never exhaust his herd.

Don Luis Terrazas is sole owner of one ranch in the state of Chihuahua that comprises 18,000,000 acres of land and has 10,000,000 acres in other parts of the republic. On these ranches an average of 750,000 head of cattle, 200,000 sheep and 100,000 horses graze the year around. He markets over 75,000 head of cattle every year and a third as many sheep. This great ranch begins at the city limits of Chihuahua and extends 110 miles north toward El Paso. It is over 100 miles wide and extends into the richest part of the Sierra Madre mountains. Over 100,000 acres of his estate is in good state of cultivation and is well improved.

The Terrazas estate is estimated at \$100,000,000, Mexican money. Besides his ranch interests he is the heaviest stockholder in the Banco Minero, Chihuahua; Agricultural and Mortgage bank, City of Mexico; Banco Central Mexicano, City of Mexico; Anglo-Mexican Banking Company, City of Mexico, and Mercantile bank of Monterey, and controls the Chihuahua woolen mills, flour factory, packing company, clothing factory, brewery and street car system, besides being one of the heavy owners of the Chihuahua & Pacific railroad.

With all this colossal fortune General Terrazas lives a modest life. He has an office and private bank in his palatial residence in Chihuahua, where twenty clerks are employed to attend to his affairs. He seldom travels, preferring to take a trip to his ranch to touring the country, and has visited the United States but twice in his life.

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#### A French clergyman has been writing

sermons in his sleep. That must be worse than insomnia.

#### Ladies Can Wear Shoes.

One size smaller after using Allen's Foot-Powder. It makes tight or new shoes easy. Cures swollen, hot, sweating, aching feet, ingrowing nails, corns and bunions. All druggists and shoe stores, etc. Trial package FREE by mail. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

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To have your lace curtains, white skirts, and shirt waists a dainty snow white, use Russ' Bleaching Blue, the modern bag blue.

The man who wants the earth should bear in mind that six feet of it will be his limit at the Ritz.

Fruit is a necessary article of diet. Its prices are in Primley's California Fruit Gum.

# BACKACHE

SHOULD WARN WOMEN.



MISS LUCY ANNIE HEISER, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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Albert Lea, Minn., Nov. 8, 1899.

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Lucy Annie Heiser.

If all the tired women and all the nervous women, and all the women that needed a tonic would read and heed the words of these fair ladies who have spoken right to the point, how many invalids would be prevented and how many wretched lives be made happy.

Peruna restores health in a normal way.

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If you do you should send your name and address on a postal card for a **WINCHESTER** GUN CATALOGUE. IT'S FREE. It illustrates and describes all the different Winchester Rifles, Shotguns and Ammunition, and contains much valuable information. Send at once to the Winchester Repeating Arms Co., New Haven, Conn.

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We sell Succotash, Beans and Bots. All goods warranted first class.  
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# Dyspepsia

Most people eat more than is good for them. The stomach tries to digest all that's put into it, but if repeatedly overloaded, it goes on a strike. That's indigestion. Rich, over-sweet, indigestible food weakens the stomach and makes it unable to take care of the material put into it. More food taken into a weakened stomach than the stomach can digest, stays there, forms gases and rots, bringing on all the horrors of dyspepsia. The only way to cure dyspepsia is to clean out the digestive canal with CASCARETS. Keep it clean with Cascarets, eat light food sparingly, and give the stomach a chance to rest up and get strong again.

**Be sure you get the genuine CASCARETS!**

when he is going to a hearse, do you? —Indianapolis Journal.

"For six years I was a victim of dyspepsia in its worst form. I could eat nothing but milk toast, and at times my stomach would not retain and digest even that. Last March I began taking CASCARETS and after only a few days had, before the week was over, I was able to eat and digest everything I ate. I have steadily improved, until I am as well as I ever was in my life."  
—DAVID H. MURPHY, Newark, O.

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have murdered you. "You he quit police."

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